

Rubber Production*[Translation]*

5949. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of rubber in the country during 1991-92, State-wise; and

(b) the total area used for rubber plantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The State-wise estimated production of natural rubber during 1991-92, is as follows:

<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>Production (Tonnes) 1991-92</i>
	<i>(Estimated)</i>
Kerala	341,500
Tamil Nadu	14,500
Karnataka	7,100
Tripura	1,100
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	500
Others	300
	365,000

(b) The total estimated area used for rubber plantation during 1991-92 is 460,000 hectares.

Imports and Exports by S.T.C. AND M.M.T.C.

5950. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation have been provided with adequate facilities and manpower to deal with the import and export activities efficiently;

(b) whether various departments of the Government also deal with import and export activities;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to entrust the work of imports and exports exclusively to S.T.C. and M.M.T.C. with a view to minimise the expenditure in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The office of Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS & D) as the Central Purchase Organisation is involved in Other Govt. Departments may also be directly involved in import/export depending upon the circumstances.

(d) to (f). In the context of liberalisation of trade policy, no such proposal is under consideration.

*[English]***Exports from Southern States**

5951. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was done or any seminar was held recently to identify the areas in Southern states for increasing exports; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Trade Development Authority of India (now Indian Trade Promotion Organisation) conducted two studies entitled "Action Plan for Promotion of Exports" in respect of Tamil Nadu in 1990-91 and Andhra Pradesh in 1991-92. The action Plans identified thrust products for export promotion.

As a part of the study for Tamil Nadu, a seminar was held in Madras on 31.1.1991. The recommendations of the seminar were circulated to the concerned agencies for follow-up action.

[Translation]

Memorandum from Private Bus Owners of Delhi

5952. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the private bus owners of Delhi to revise their fare structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Pursuant to the revision of STC's fares, the Associations

of Private Bus Operators represented to the Delhi Administration revised the fares of Private buses in January, 1992. The details are as under:-

Distance	Fare
0-6 Kms	Rs. 1/-
6 to 16 Kms	Rs. 2/-
Above 16 Kms.	Rs. 3/-

Raids on Industrialists

5953. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrialists raided by the income tax officials during March, 1988 to March, 1991;

(b) the amount of income tax recovered from these industrialists;

(c) the number of cases where they obtained stay orders; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for early finalisation of all these cases?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). 17,600 searches were conducted by the Income-tax Department on various assesses during the period from March, 1988 to March, 1991. Taxes are recovered at several stages before and after the completion of assessment as also on finalisation of appeals etc. Similarly, stay orders may be obtained against search and seizure, assessment, recovery proceedings etc. On these subjects, no consolidated case-wise record has been maintained by the Department for various categories of assesses like industrialists, trades, professionals, salary-earners etc.